



TO: SEATAC Members
FROM: Dr. Shirley Imsand, Coordinator
SUBJECT: MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA

The next meeting of SEATAC is scheduled for:

Day/Date: Monday, 14 September 2009
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Place: DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING
Hall of Records, Room 1385
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SEATAC members, please park in Lot 11 located at 227 N. Spring, entering from Spring; or Lot 26 located at 120 S. Olive, entering from 1st Street; both are operated by 5-Star Parking Services. Please call (213) 974-6461 to confirm attendance at scheduled meeting for reserved parking validation.

AGENDA

1. **1:00 p.m.** Review and approve SEATAC minutes of 6 July 2009 and 3 August 2009.
2. **1:20 p.m.** Review and approval of the Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species List.

OLD BUSINESS

3. **1:30 p.m.** **Project Description: NextLight, AV Solar Ranch One**
Tract TR 71035, RENV 2009-00027, CUP 2009-00026

Applicant: Roy Skinner of NextLight

Biologist: John Davis IV of URS Corporation, Santa Barbara

A project for a new solar photovoltaic facility in the vicinity of Fairmont Butte is proposed for approximately 2100 acres. The project site is located approximately 20 miles northwest of the City of Lancaster in Los Angeles County, California. The site is roughly between 155th Street West and 180th Street West and between Avenue B-5 West and Avenue E West. The project includes a 20,000 sq.ft. facility building, an 8 ft.-high perimeter fence to prevent vandalism, and transmission line to deliver power produced. The transmission line for the project will run north along 170th St. West for 3.5 mi. to the SCE Whirlwind substation

If you require reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids and services such as material in an alternate format or a sign language interpreter, please contact the ADA (American with Disabilities Act) Coordinator at (213) 974-6488 (Voice) or (213) 617-2292 (TDD), with at least five business days notice.

on Astoria Avenue in Kern County or, alternatively, 1.5 miles along Avenue C to connect into the Antelope-Magunden transmission line.

The current use of some of the land is agricultural and fallow agricultural, but most is land that has had previous agricultural use and is now covered by rabbitbrush scrub or non-native grasses. There is a 27-acre ranch with domicile and outbuildings that will be leveled. The ranch has Junipers, exotic trees, and a defunct pistachio orchard that support a number of native birds. The southeast corner of the project has a wildflower field of California Poppies, Goldfields, Lupine, and other wildflowers. The site includes part of a Significant Ecological Area, **SEA #60, Joshua Tree Woodland Habitat SEA**. There has been some recruitment of Joshua Trees onto the subject property that is not included in the SEA, and about 30 of 50 recruits would be removed. The part of the property in the SEA has no Joshua Trees at the present time.

The project includes the 20,000 sq.ft. facility building, 75,000 tilted tracker units, 1,300 drive motors, 400 pads for electrical equipment. There are two types of ballast bases proposed for the panels: the current design is of heavy concrete blocks, approximately 10'x2'x1.5'. Tracker units will have connected foundations for stability in severe wind conditions. A less expensive and preferred base is currently in design, a screw-type base that would cover less area than the blocks, but need drilling into the ground for about 15' depth. Drive motors will be on concrete pads 8' X 12' spaced 1200' apart. High points of the tilted tracker units will be about 15 ft. above ground surface and electrical equipment inclosures reach to about 12 ft. height.

Grading proposed is 700,000 cu.yd of cut and 700,000 cu.yd. of fill to be balanced on site. Most of the grading is for channelizing the main drainage course, which will be about 10' deep at the SW end and even with the surrounding terrain at the NW end. The walls of the main course are to be earthen, and "V"-shaped groins in the sandy stream course will direct water flow away from the walls. Other drainages on site will be left as is. There are several drainages on-site that start abruptly with a depth of about 3-5 ft. and terminate by flowing out onto the surrounding desert plain. The origin and nature of these ancillary, apparently unconnected drainages is unknown. It is anticipated that very minimal grading will be needed for the remainder of the site, as the applicants hope to keep the present ground covers to minimize dust production, which would be detrimental to optimal radiation reception. The project installation may require some grading for flat alignment of the solar panels. Production of electricity would occur about three years after construction begins. The site is evaluated as averaging +7.5 KWh/m²/day.

SEA RESOURCE DESCRIPTION: The **Joshua Tree Woodland Habitat** is diminishing at an accelerating rate in Los Angeles County due to agricultural, solar, and urban expansion in the County's desert regions. This vegetation has a fairly strict elevation criterion and occurs between 2500-4000 feet. The dominant species is the Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) which may reach heights of 5 to 12 m. Other common species of the woodlands include Mojave Yucca, sage, box-thorn, and buckwheat.

Action Requested: Review of the Biota Report. The Biota Report has been used to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance under Article 7, Section 15080. Mitigation measures may be proposed by SEATAC for incorporation into the Final EIR.

OTHER MATTERS

4. Public comment pursuant to Section 54954.3 of the Government Code.